

REMARKS

The final Office Action of August 10, 2006, and the Advisory Action of November 2, 2006, have been received and reviewed.

Claims 1-33 are currently pending and under consideration in the above-referenced application. Of these, claims 1, 2, 9, 13-18, 21-24, 28, 32, and 33 have been rejected, while claims 3-8, 10-12, 19, 20, 25-27, 30, and 31 are directed to allowable subject matter.

It is proposed that claims 2, 3, and 25 be canceled, and that new claims 34-66 be added.

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 9, 13-18, 21-24, 28, 32, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The standard for establishing and maintaining a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is set forth in M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j), which provides:

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Sanders in View of Tischler

Claims 1, 2, 9, 17, 18, 21-24, 28, 29, 32, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for being drawn to subject matter that is assertedly unpatentable over the teachings of U.S. Patent 5,506,607 to Sanders, Jr., et al. (hereinafter "Sanders"), in view of teachings from U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0114016 of Tischler (hereinafter "Tischler").

Without relinquishing the positions taken in the Response mailed on October 10, 2006, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1, as proposed to be amended, is allowable for reciting subject matter that is not obvious in view of the teachings of Sanders and Tischler.

Specifically, it is proposed that independent claim 1 be amended into include limitations from claim 3, which the Office has indicated is allowable.

Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejection of claim 2 moot.

Claims 9, 17, 18, and 21 are each allowable, among other reasons, for depending from amended independent claim 1, which is allowable.

It is also proposed that independent claim 22 be amended. Specifically, it is proposed that independent claim 22 be amended to include limitations from claim 25, which the Office has indicated is allowable.

Each of claims 23, 24, 28, 29, 32, and 33 is allowable, among other reasons, for depending directly or indirectly from amended independent claim 22.

Sanders, Tischler, and Jensen

The rejections of claims 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are based upon the teachings of Sanders, in view of teachings from Tischler and, further, in view of the subject matter taught in U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0032111 of Jensen, Jr., et al. (hereinafter "Jensen").

Claims 13-16 are each allowable, among other reasons, for depending directly or indirectly from claim 1, which is allowable.

Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims 1, 2, 9, 13-18, 21-24, 28, 32, and 33 is respectfully requested, as is the allowance of claims 1, 9, 13-18, 21-24, 28, 32, and 33.

New Claims

It is also proposed that new claims 34-66 be added.

New claim 34 is an independent claim that includes limitations from claims 1 and 10, which the Office indicated to be allowable. New claims 35-45 depend directly or indirectly from new independent claim 34.

New claim 46 is an independent claim that includes limitations from claims 1 and 19, which the Office indicated to be allowable. New claims 47-52 depend directly or indirectly from new independent claim 46.

New claim 53 is an independent claim that includes limitations from claims 22 and 30, which combination the Office indicated is allowable. New claims 54-59 depend directly or indirectly from new independent claim 53.

New claim 60 is an independent claim that includes limitations from claims 22 and 31, another combination which the Office has indicated to be allowable. New claims 61-66 depend directly or indirectly from new independent claim 60.

It is respectfully submitted that none of new claims 34-66 introduces new matter into the above-referenced application.

Entry of Amendments

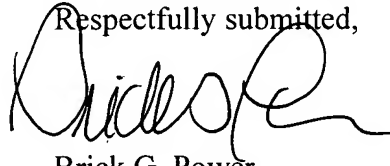
Entry of the proposed amendments to the claims is respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that the proposed amendments do not introduce new matter, that they would not necessitate an additional search, and that they resolve all of the issues that remain for purposes of appeal.

In the event that the proposed amendments are not entered, their entry is respectfully solicited upon the filing of a Notice of Appeal in the above-referenced application.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1, 4-24, and 26-66 is allowable. An early notice of the allowability of each of these claims is respectfully solicited, as is an indication that the above-referenced application has been passed for issuance. If any issues preventing allowance of the above-referenced application remain which might be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Office is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brick G. Power", written over the typed name.

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Date: November 10, 2006

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